

John Wentworth Farm House
Cook County, SUMMIT
(near Chicago) Illinois

HABS No. Ill. 156

HABS
ILL.

16-SUM,

1-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Dist. No. Ill. 1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago

HABE

ILL,

16 - Sum,

1.

JOHN WENTWORTH FARM HOUSE
SUMMIT, NOW Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Owner - Mrs. C.E. Parlin

Date of Erection - 1868

Builder - John Wentworth

Present Condition - In good repair (1936)

Number of Stories - Two and one-half

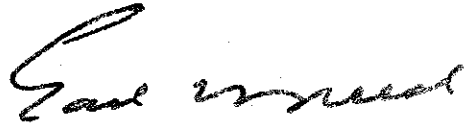
Materials of Construction - Basement walls, coursed ashlar lime-stone; chimneys, brick to basement; first floor construction, oak timbers and joists, pine floors; walls of wood construction.

Additional Data - The house, now standing on a hillock in Summit, at Harlem and Archer Avenues, overlooks the Des Plaines Valley. It is of great historic interest because of the outstanding part the builder and first owner, John Wentworth took in the early affairs of Chicago. "Long John" Wentworth, as he was properly known, on account of his great height, was born in 1815 in New Hampshire and arrived in Chicago in 1836, after his graduation from Dartmouth. He was editor and owner of Chicago's first newspaper, a member of the City Charter Committee, Congressman for seven terms and twice mayor of the City, to mention only a few of his interests.

In 1868 he built the sixteen-room house upon his stock farm of about 5000 acres. Nearby to the east, was a men's-help building which has been moved and remodelled into a residence. Barns and other out-buildings were beyond.

He spent many of the later years of his life on this farm where he is said to have entertained the then Prince of Wales and other distinguished guests. Upon his death in 1888 it passed to a nephew, Moses J. Wentworth. The house is now within the extended limits of the City of Chicago and is owned by Mrs. C.E. Parlin, who rents light house-keeping rooms and operates a refreshment stand nearby on State Highway No. 42.

The information contained in the above was furnished by Mrs. Katherine Maloy, Postmistress, Summit Post Office and the daughter of Edward Barrett, at one time Wentworth's manager of livestock and copies of abstracts in her possession. Also by Mrs. C.E. Parlin, occupant and owner; Mr. H. Clark of Summit and records in the archives of the Chicago, Title and Trust Company. Mrs. Pearl Jenison of the Federal Writers Project assisted in gathering this information. Other data contained in History of Cook County and the Northwest by Rufus Blanchard.



District Officer Northern Illinois

6/9/57